

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/690,255

Examiner

Joon H. Hwang

Applicant(s)

HIRSCH ET AL.

Art Unit

2166

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to a telephone interview with Jack P. Friedman (Reg. No. 44,688) on 10/25/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 28-35 and 38-54 (renumbered as 1-25).
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

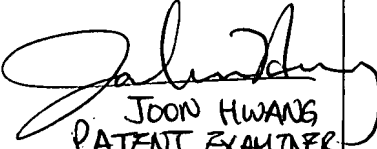
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |


JOON HWANG
PATENT EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

1. The applicants amended claims 28 and 41 and canceled claims 36-37 in the amendment filed on 8/15/07.

The pending claims are 28-35 and 38-54.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
3. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Jack P. Friedman (Reg. No. 44,688) on 10/25/07.
4. The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 28, lines 1-5, delete [A database comprising a plurality of tables, said plurality of tables being stored in a storage medium of a computer system, each table comprising at least one column and at least one row, said plurality of tables describing a plurality of components of a hierarchy in which hierarchical relationships between components of the hierarchy are defined, said database stored in a computer system, said plurality of tables comprising:], and insert - - "A computer system comprising a processor and a storage medium, said storage medium comprising a database stored therein, said database comprising a plurality of tables, said plurality of tables being

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stored in the storage medium of the computer system, each table comprising at least one column and at least one row, said plurality of tables describing a plurality of components of a hierarchy in which hierarchical relationships between components of the hierarchy are define, said plurality of tables comprising:" - -;

Claim 28, line 12, delete [encompasses only those components of the hierarchy whose component type is a specific], and insert - - "encompasses only components of the hierarchy such that each component has a component type that is a specific" - -;

Claim 28, line 21, delete [the components of the hierarchy;], and insert - - "components of the hierarchy;" - -;

Claim 28, line 35, delete [the value field is configured to be updated], and insert - - "the value field is updated" - -;

Claim 29, line 1, delete [The database of claim 28], and insert - - "The computer system of claim 28" - -;

Claim 30, line 1, delete [The database of claim 28], and insert - - "The computer system of claim 28" - -;

Claim 31, line 1, delete [The database of claim 28], and insert - - "The computer system of claim 28" - -;

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Claim 32, line 1, delete [The database of claim 31], and insert - - "The computer system of claim 31" - -;

Claim 33, line 1, delete [The database of claim 32], and insert - - "The computer system of claim 32" - -;

Claim 33, lines 8-9, delete [a component whose workflow state change is identified], and insert - - "a component, wherein a workflow state change of the component is identified" - -;

Claim 34, line 1, delete [The database of claim 28], and insert - - "The computer system of claim 28" - -;

Claim 35, line 1, delete [The database of claim 34], and insert - - "The computer system of claim 34" - -;

Claim 38, line 1, delete [The database of claim 28], and insert - - "The computer system of claim 28" - -;

Claim 39, line 1, delete [The database of claim 28], and insert - - "The computer system of claim 28" - -;

Claim 40, line 1, delete [The database of claim 39], and insert - - "The computer system of claim 39" - -;

Claim 41, line 3, delete [a popup calculator configured to be displayed], and insert - - "a popup calculator being displayed" - -;

Claim 41, line 5, delete [wherein the popup calculator is configured to perform], and insert - - "wherein the popup calculator performs" - -;

Claim 41, lines 6-7, delete [to display a result], and insert - - "displays a result" - -;

Claim 41, lines 21-22, delete [encompasses only those components of the hierarchy whose component type is a specific], and insert - - "encompasses only components of the hierarchy such that each component has a component type that is a specific" - -;

Claim 42, line 1, delete [The calculation engine of claim 41], and insert - - "The computer system of claim 41" - -;

Claim 43, line 1, delete [The calculation engine of claim 41], and insert - - "The computer system of claim 41" - -;

Claim 44, line 1, delete [The calculation engine of claim 41], and insert - - "The computer system of claim 41" - -;

Rewrite claim 45 as follows:

"45. The computer system of claim 41, wherein the set of functions comprises a task assignment function, and wherein the result of the evaluation of the task assignment function is an identification of preliminary analysis tasks assigned to the user by priority.";

Claim 46, line 1, delete [The calculation engine of claim 41, wherein the set of formulas], and insert - - "The computer system of claim 41, wherein the set of functions" - -;

Claim 47, line 1, delete [The calculation engine of claim 41, wherein the identification], and insert - - "The computer system of claim 46, wherein an identification" - -;

Claim 48, lines 20-21, delete [encompasses only those components of the hierarchy whose component type is a specific], and insert - - "encompasses only components of the hierarchy such that each component has a component type that is a specific" - -;

Rewrite claim 52 as follows:

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"52. The method of claim 48, wherein the set of functions comprises a task assignment function, and wherein the result of the evaluation of the task assignment function is an identification of preliminary analysis tasks assigned to the user by priority.";

Claim 53, line 1, delete [wherein the set of formulas], and insert - - "wherein the set of functions" - -; and

Claim 54, line 1, delete [The method of claim 48, wherein the identification], and insert - - "The method of claim 53, wherein an identification" - -.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 28-35 and 38-54 are allowed.

Claims 28, 41, and 48 identify the distinct features, the plurality of tables describing a plurality of components of a hierarchy in which hierarchical relationships between components of the hierarchy are defined, a component table encompassing all components of the hierarchy, wherein the components of the hierarchy encompass a plurality of component types, and wherein the at least one column of the component table comprise a component_id column that identifies each component, a parent_id column that identifies a parent component of each component, and a type_name

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column that specifies a component type of each component, and a plurality of component-specific tables, wherein each component-specific table encompasses only components of the hierarchy such that each component has a component type that is a specific component type, wherein the at least one column of each component-specific table comprises a component_id column and a component information column, wherein the component_id column of each component-specific table identifies each component in each component-specific table, is a primary key for each component-specific table, and is a foreign key pointing to a corresponding component in the component table, and wherein the component information column of each component-specific table comprises a description or content of each component in each component-specific table, are not taught or suggested by the prior art made of records. The closest prior art, Zhang et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0200224) disclosing a content management system which employs a hierarchical item type tree-based structure including tables at different levels to store metadata for items and the ability to arbitrarily select or group component tables forming a complex tree-based structure and to then retrieve items therefrom in response to a query, fails to suggest to claimed limitations as mentioned above in combination with other claimed elements. The above features in conjunction with all other limitations of the dependent and independent claims 28-35 and 38-54 are hereby allowed.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joon H. Hwang whose telephone number is 571-272-4036. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30-6:00(M~F).

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hosain T. Alam can be reached on 571-272-3978. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Joon Hwang
Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2100

10/25/07